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Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03329 181512Z

42
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 VOE-00 SCA-01

DHA-02 ORM-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 PRS-01 USIE-00 /054 W
---------- 035718
O R 181406Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 795
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3329

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR
SUBJ: SERGEI NEMTSANOV, SOVIET OLYMPICS DEFECTOR

REF: 1) OTTAWA 3324 2) ROUSE/LEARY TELECON AUG 17

1. CONFIRMING REF 2 TELECON, SPOKESMAN FOR DEPARTMENT OF MAN-
POWER AND IMMIGRATION (MANDI) ANNOUNCED AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 17
THAT SOVIET OLYMPIC DIVER SERGEI NEMTSANOV HAD DECIDED TO RETURN
TO USSR AND HAD TURNED HIMSELF OVER TO SOVIET CONSULAR OFFICIALS.

2. ACCORDING TO SPOKESMAN, NEMTSANOV, ACCOMPANIED BY ATTORNEYS
AND CANADIAN FREINDS MET WITH IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS ON AUGUST
16 AND INDICATED HE WAS THINKING OF RETURNING BUT WANTED TO
SLEEP ON DECISION. ON AUGUST 17, HAVING SLEPT ON IT, HE MET
WITH SAME GROUP AT HOLIDAY INN IN MONTREAL AND ANNOUNCED THAT
HE HAD DECIDED TO GO BACK. AFTER CANADIAN OFFICIALS SATISFIED
THEMSELVES THAT NEMTSANOV HAD CLEARLY ARRIVED AT DECISION OF
HIS OWN FREE WILL, NEMTSANOV TOGEHER WITH ATTORNEYS AND
FRIENDS DEPARTED FOR RENDEZVOUS WITH SOVIET CONSULAR OFFICIALS.
HE THEN WENT OFF WITH THESE OFFICIALS AND "PRESUMABLY"
IS AT SOVIET CONSULATE IN MONTREAL. MANDI EXPECTS THAT
NEMTSANOV WILL DEPART ON NEXT AEROFLOT FLIGHT DUE OUT OF MONTREAL
ON AUGUST 19.

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03329 181512Z

3. ASKED ABOUT REASONS FOR NEMTSANOV'S DECISION, MANDI

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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SPOKESMAN SAID NEMTSANOV'S ATTORNEYS HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH SAID SOLE REASON WAS CONCERN ABOUT HEALTH OF AGING GRANDMOTHER.

4. MANDI SPOKESMAN REVEALED THAT DURING TIME SINCE HIS "DEFECTION", NEMTSANOV HAD BEEN WITH A CANADIAN NAMED JOHN FLEMING AT MUSCOKA, A VACATION RESORT NORTH OF TORONTO.

5. EARLY MORNING NEWS BROADCASTS AUGUST 18 REPORT THAT SOVIETS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT NEMTSANOV IS IN SOVIET CONSULATE BUT "IS VERY TIRED AND WILL NOT BE MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS."
LEARY

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NNN

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